

Message

From: Covington, Jeryl [Covington.Jeryl@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/5/2017 7:40:23 PM
To: Covington, Jeryl [Covington.Jeryl@epa.gov]
Subject: July 5, 2017 (2:30 p.m.) Interview with [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]

2:30

Paul, Deshawn (R9), [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)], Adam Wilson

With MOM, been with the group since 2013, started as an ad hoc group with young babies and seeing what was occurring in the community, environment, industries. Started bringing issues about these concerns and started to advocate. Started participating with the counties moratorium. Not know what is going on next door, do not know what testing is going on. We do not see the protections in place for the community.

Native HI descendants. Is not living on homestead lands work on homestead lands. 200 ft from nearest cornfield. Live away from the ADC lands. Purchased lands away from the ADC lands. Geography planting on the wind side-have tried to set-up windmills. Adjusted the work schedule because you can smell the chemicals and employees have nose bleeds. Spraying in the early morning or late at nights. Try to accommodate work schedule. DO not know what they are spraying and whether there is any residue. As an employer we have looked at other locations. Following the spraying the bees/wasps come down to the facility. Wasps are disoriented and then disappear the next day. We can tell that they are spraying. Have headaches, children do not come to work because children were getting noise bleeds. Have made adjustment in our lifestyles. Community should not be concerned about getting sick, why are there dust storms. There are 3 schools in the area (Kua La puu). Pesticides being sprayed 1/weeks 46 months ago. No one comes in before 8 in the morning. Stopped coming in to the office at 7:00 a.m.. Requested reporting from Monsanto and they reported advance warning at work to give advance warning of the spraying. Could not recall when Monsanto said that they would give an advance notice (more than 6 months ago). Disgruntled due to relationships

GMO moratorium started the division in the community. Some community are employed with the companies and depend on the industry. Other side of the community concerns where pursuing for the moratorium and the advocacy groups. When the vote came on the table it divided the community. People were being threatened. Friendships have been lost and threats logged against community meetings. Afraid of retaliation to go to grocery stores/ gas stations. Employees were paid to advocate for their employee. Can see how much land is being planted and encroachment up to the roadways.

Moratorium was being filed by a group on Maui. Petition to put on the ballot was the first people-initiated initiative. This was a county initiative. The companies claim that if they were not save, the EPA or the state would have shut them down. Do not know what is being done on the experimental fields. There are three houses around the fields.

Have not filed a complaint with DOA. Did not know that this was a state responsibility. Had been complaining to the county. Did not know that the proper venue was the DOA.

There have been informational meetings. Have received information via the MOMs group. They (MOMs) had a showing of a documentary a few months ago. Have had informational meetings and the seed company employees doe attend some of the meetings -field workers). These MOMs meetings are sporadic. Once a year the seed companies have an open house to show what they are doing. DOA/ADC not aware of either entity having a meeting in the community.

Have not felt retaliation from DOA or the company. Alliances from the workers and was not aware that the employers promoted but the companies did not dissuade the employees from doing.

Have spoken with some of the scientists with the company. Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) in the PR capacity and the other company members do not participate.

Work near the fields. Has video of the dust storms and flooding from the fields. Flooding continues to the homes. Not notice the smell of the storm water. The water is brown and red. Runoff is red.

Health impacts of nose bleeds and headaches. Other employees have the same complaints. They have been keeping an eye on what happens and have been farming organics produce but cannot get certification because their farm is too close to the fields.

Know employees associated with the companies. Layoffs have been occurring. Former employees have signed non-disclosure agreements; have been having upper respiratory problems (2-years ago). Former employee was denied workers compensation. Recounted one event from the wife of an employee, employees had been sprayed and had to disrobe.

Would like to receive information about the testing and experimental open-air field test (should not be allowed).; community should know when pesticides are being prayed, what type, how often, concerns about spraying before a rainstorm and the runoff does not reach the downstream homeowners. Concerns related to the open-air testing, advocated for buffer zones. Who makes sure the produces are safe? Do not know who is to blame for the changes in the community. The community is surrounded around these chemicals.

Legal repercussions and concerns about confidentiality.

Hard to describe and welcomed a site visit.

3:25 p.m.